Forces in J and K during 1999 and 78 terrorists have been killed during January 2000.

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

665. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the recent Kargil conflict, Pakistan has been opening new areas on the LoC and the international border to step up militancy and cross border terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There has been continued efforts on the part of Pak ISI and pro-Pak militant outfits to induct more mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to carrying out terrorist activities. [It is difficult to precisely ascertain the exact level of infiltration.] With a view to tackling the problem of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for Security Forces.

Steps are being taken to flush out militants and curb militant activities including closer vigil on the border, establishment of more naka parties in depth areas to check infiltration/exfiltration, more pickets, intensive patrolling and extensive cordon and search operations.

Bangladeshis in India

† 666. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign nationals are living in India illegally and majority of them are Bangladeshis;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the measures being taken to repatriate them and to deny authorised civil facilities; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.